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VISITORS TO POLAND REPORT
PEOPLE OPPOSED TO RED RULE

A person can be frank in the company of his immediate family, but not in the company of acquaintances. People are silent on streetcars and trains, and there is mutual suspicion, heretofore unknown in Poland. In smaller cities, night life has almost entirely disappeared. Arrests are very common. Even more common are police hearings held to intimidate the people.

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The people do not believe in the USSR's might nor any other official propaganda. They believe that the USA has the economic strength to crush any aggressor.

The regime now is going through an important crisis because it lacks trustworthy people for responsible positions. The regime must use inexperienced Communists easily prone to deviation. There are constant purges and there would be even more if others were available to fill positions.

The USSR is not even sure of the Security Police. Important changes were made in the army, which up to Rokossovskiy's appointment, was very patriotic and not susceptible to Communist propaganda. All armaments of the Polish Army come from the USSR. The army does little training; instead, it is undergoing intensive political indoctrination.

After a period of opportunism and self-deception, the people began to understand Communist goals and revived their moral stamina. The people are strongly united and the Catholic Church played a huge role in this. Never before has such a strong impetus been observed toward the Church and Catholic morality. The Tygodnik Powszechny, published in Krakow by the Archbishop's curia, is considered as the true spiritual leader in all matters. Unfortunately, it is limited since state censorship does not permit it to write fully about many things. There can be no understanding between the regime and the church as long as Communism insists that the church renounce its mission.

All who have the opportunity listen to foreign broadcasts in spite of penalties. Smuggled foreign publications are passed from hand to hand in great secrecy. Also, gratitude to foreign countries is noted for their publication of the truth about Poland. The Polish people want the world to know, in spite of outward appearances, that Poland has not lost its spiritual connection with western Christian civilization.

The school-age youth organization "Service for Poland," has not produced the desired results. On the whole, the youth strongly opposes Communism. At the opening of the present academic year, the youth listened to addresses by Party members, Security Police, and army personnel with indifference and boredom. Marxism made greater progress among the college youths where approximately 10 percent of the students accepted Communism of their own free will.

In October 1949, at a teachers' convention in Nowy Sacz, Minister Skrzyszewski severely criticized teachers for the students' poor knowledge of Marxism. It was disclosed that when reading Communist propaganda reports dictated in Warsaw, the teachers frequently announced that they were not the authors of the reports and that they were reading them only because it was their duty to do so.

During the last 2 years, trips were arranged for Polish farmers into the USSR to propagandize the collective farm system. Last September, some farmers from Rzeszow Powiat made the trip. Upon their return, the powiat did not only pass a resolution to establish the first collective, but also passed a resolution not to establish any collectives. The farmers who were on the trip said that the village people in the USSR live practically in slavery and in the worst poverty. Many times, the farmers had been asked secretly when the West would come and free the Soviet people. Since then the trips have been discontinued, and the Polish-USSR border is guarded more closely than ever before.

There is much discontent among agricultural workers in Poland. All are exhausted from the quota system. Health conditions in villages are constantly getting worse. Most of the people in Poland are very poorly dressed.

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The state construction enterprises in Poland try to employ as many women as possible on construction of buildings, roads, and bridges. Vocational training schools were opened to train women for heavy manual work. Living conditions are so bad that Polish women are willing to accept almost any type of work. At the first course, 201 women were trained: 41 as masons, 18 as plasterers, 73 as elevator operators, 28 as glaziers, and many as interior house painters.

The attitude toward emigrees has changed markedly. The country looks upon emigrees as a solid bloc and condemns intraemigree disputes, believing that only unity can bring Poland any benefit. The Polish public as a whole is not divided into parties at present; it is just Catholic and patriotic. Liberation is the single goal; there will be time enough for party divisions. The people also know that future Poland will have to consider "socialization."

The mainstay today is the Catholic Church, which endured Hitler's concentration camps and will endure Communist murders and imprisonments.

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